

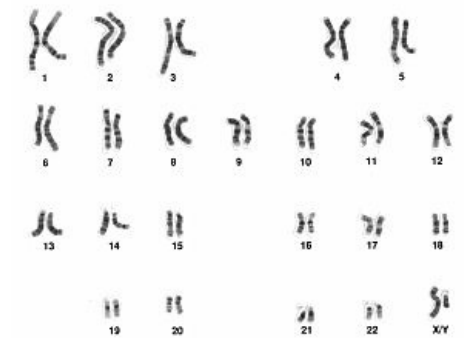
Karyotype

Karyotype is a profile of organisms chromosomes which are organized by their size, pattern and location of centromere. The order of chromosomes is done according to the size as it's easier for specialists to find some disorders.

 For more information see *Eukaryotic Chromosomes*.

Humans has 22 pairs of autosomal chromosomes (numbered 1 to 22) and 1 pair of sex chromosomes (X, Y). The common **samples** are *blood cells*, *bone marrow cells* or *amniotic fluid* (prenatal diagnosis). The whole test of karyotype takes 1-3 weeks (depending on the material used) and it is done in a cytogenetics laboratory.

Normal human DNA is a very long string. When we want to see chromosomes as we are used to see, we have to examine them in their most compact shape. This form is typical for one phase of mitosis – **metaphase**. We can stop the growth by using some special chemicals (like colchicine or its synthetic derivatives). Also the typical striped pattern is caused by chemicals – e.g. by **Giensa dye** – which stains adenine and thymine bases.



Human karyotype

How Do We Test Karyotype?

1. **Collecting of the samples** – the most common are blood cells (especially the white ones - they are actively dividing).
2. **Growing of the cells** – it is necessary to cultivate the cells on the right medium or cell culture.
3. **Stopping of the growth** – we have to stop division in metaphase.
4. **Dying of chromosomes** – chromosomes are normally colorless so we use various staining and banding methods for visualization.
5. **Sorting of chromosome** – from the largest (chromosome 1) to the smallest (chromosome 22).
6. **Analysing** – structure, pattern, count.

Links

Related articles

- Mitosis
- Eukaryotic Chromosomes
- Chromosome
- Prenatal diagnosis
- Genetic counseling

External links

- How is a Karyotype Test Done? (http://downsyndrome.about.com/od/diagnosingdownsyndrome/ht/Howkaryotype_ro.htm)

Bibliography

- ALBERTS,, et al. *Základy buněčné biologie*. 2.vydání edition. 1998. ISBN 80-902906-2-0.